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LSU in Shreveport

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New fee gets mixed reactions

Kirk Dickey
ALMAGEST

Reactions toward the technology fee implemented this semester are mixed. Some students are concerned about having to spend more money on fees, but Student Government officers and some students say that the benefits will far outweigh the cost.

Lack of what some student see as adequate technology on campus, is reason enough for those students to pay the new fee without question. "It didn't bother me," Dennis Britton, a senior, said. "I thought it was something that we probably needed."

That idea is quite common and becoming more accepted according to Mike Modica, vice-president of the SGA. Modica said that some students are still a little upset by the increase in fees, but that once they understand what the increase means in terms of better and more available technology, those students

will come around.

Modica declined to go into possibilities of how the money will be spent. According to a letter sent out to LSUS students by the Chancellor's office, a committee with "ample student representation" will be assembled to oversee the expenditure of the money.

Julie Schreiner, a junior, hopes that the technology fee will put some new computers in the labs. "You have to stay up on technology," Schreiner said. "We have some of them [computers] in the labs that are from 1989." Even still, she thought the state was giving LSUS enough money for technological advancements. "I'm not sure it [the fee] was necessary right now," she said. According to Modica, the fee had to be put in now or it might not have ever been put in.

The five dollar-per-credit hour technology fee was the idea of the LSU-Baton Rouge Student Government, which felt their school was getting

behind in computer technology. In order to get their fees raised they had to get the bill approved in the state legislature, which meant it could affect the whole LSU system. The issue of the fee was raised at the last meeting of the LSUS SGA's Spring session.

Modica said that Chancellor Vincent Marsala came and spoke to the SGA that day, explaining what had happened. The SGA voted to be a part of the bill that day. "I would say (the vote) was pretty overwhelmingly in favor of the fee," Modica said.

According to Modica, the vote was hastened because they were not sure if they would get another opportunity to take part in the bill. That is why students did not get a chance to vote on it. "We had to get into it now," Modica said, "We weren't sure if we could get on later."



Photo by Chris Howell

Welcome Back to School. Enthusiastic students mingling and getting to know each other during a common hour in front of the University Center.

McKinney named as dean of sciences

Jennifer Ebarb
ALMAGEST

Dr. Alfred McKinney was named dean of college of sciences last May. He has served as interim dean of sciences since the summer of 1996.

McKinney replaced Dr. Lyle Cook, who served as dean of the college of sciences at LSUS since 1985. Cook took the position of provost and vice-president for academic affairs at Black Hills State University in July 1996.

McKinney has four goals for the college of sciences. "We would like to improve and be more effective in our teaching

and increase our scholarly activities," McKinney said.

With the renovation of the science building, there are questions about the disruptions it may cause to the students. "We hope to minimize the disruption by effectively coordinating the several moves, and provide adequate classrooms, labs, and offices," McKinney said.



Alfred McKinney

As dean, McKinney hopes to form more faculty partnerships. "We need to increase the effectiveness of the management team (the chairs and the deans) to create more stability and we need to effectively serve the community."

McKinney joined LSUS in 1974 and served as director of academic and administrative computing

from 1981-1983. He also held the position of chairman of the department of computer science from 1986-1988 and 1992-1996.

Before coming to LSUS, McKinney taught at Oklahoma College of Liberal Arts and served as a research mathematician for United Gas Research Lab in Shreveport.

A native of Houston, McKinney earned his bachelor of sciences degree at Louisiana Tech University in 1959, his master's degree at Tech in 1961, and his Ph.D. in mathematics and computer science from the University of Oklahoma in

1972.

He has written several articles, grants, and conference papers, and has been a frequent guest speaker in the community.

McKinney is a member of numerous local and national professional organizations, such as the Association of Computing Machinery and the Louisiana Academy of Sciences.

He was inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK), a national honorary leadership society, in April of 1995. McKinney was also awarded an Outstanding Faculty Award for teaching in March of 1995.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SGA elections will be held Oct. 1-8. Intent to run forms can be picked up in Student Activities office, UC 232, and MUST be turned in to the office no later than Sept. 16.

The University Center now offers Air Hockey in the game room. Check out the equipment in Student Activities, UC 232.

LSUS Alumni sponsors trips to Italy and London. The trip to Italy is scheduled to depart Sept. 18 from Shreveport. A visit to the Vatican Museums is part of the nine day trip. Trip to London departs Dec. 26 and includes two theater performances, and sights in and around London. Special prices for travelers under 24 years. For additional information, call Phyllis Graham at 798-1343. Open to general public.

SGA fall session off to slow start

Kirk Dickey
ALMAGEST

The Student Government Association's Fall session is off to a slow start because of low participation and scheduling problems. The most discussed issues of the first meeting, were the proficiency exam and how to get beer at Fall Fest.

Class scheduling problems and extracurricular activities have forced three senators to resign their positions for this semester.

The SGA meeting on Tuesday was attended by only five of the remaining eight senators and the executive officers. SGA elections are scheduled for the week of Oct. 1-8, and will determine who will fill the vacant slots.

The proficiency exam

requirement for graduation was, as always, an issue up for discussion. The SGA plans to present its case to the Faculty Council in order to garner their support in getting rid of the test.

The most intense discussion came with the announcement that no beer will be sold at Fall Fest. Mel's Cafe has lost money on beer sales in the past. So this year, there will probably not be any beer at the festival.

Mel's is the only place that can sell beer on campus.

The SGA will try to work out a plan to have beer on campus. Some of the senators feel that without beer, attendance will be down for the festivities. ☺

New interim dean of business administration works on getting her department reaccredited

Jennifer Ebarb
ALMAGEST

Dr. Charlotte Jones, professor and assistant dean of economics and finance, has been appointed as Interim dean of the college of business administration.

Dr. Stuart Mills, provost and vice chancellor of academic affairs, announced the appointment on August 26.

Dr. Melvin W. Harju, the former dean of the college of business, expressed his desire to leave the dean's office and return to a faculty appointment at the end of July.

Jones joined LSUS in 1984 as a professor of the department of management and marketing. She has taught classes such as statistics, computer applications, management science, and marketing research. She has served as assistant dean of the college of business administration since August of 1994.

Jones received her B.S.

degree in mathematics from the University of Arkansas at Monticello in 1966. She received her Master's degree in 1981 and her Doctorate in 1985, both from Louisiana Tech.

After receiving her bachelor's degree, Jones worked for the state of Louisiana as a systems analyst for three years. After that Jones chose to stay home with her children while they were growing up.

Jones says that there will not be any major changes during her appointment. "Right now we are working on our reaccreditation with the American Assembly of Collegiate School of Business (AACSB). It is our main project for this year," Jones said. "We recently turned in the self evaluation, and we should know by November if there are any problems."

Jones says that the college of business should now be April if they have received full accreditation



Charlotte Jones

or probation.

Jones has been published in various journals, including *Journal of the American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association*, *American Business Review*, *Journal of Petroleum Accounting*, and *Southwestern Economic Review*.

Her research interests are in statistical applications using probit and logic analysis and non-parametric statistics. ☺

Department of education gets a grant

Lori Whaley
ALMAGEST

Training and Recruiting Project.

This project provides funding of courses required for certification in special education for teachers currently on temporary certificates.

Marshman says the grant "will help defray the costs for teachers who have been denied tuition exemptions."

To be eligible for the program, teachers must be

working on a temporary certificate in a special education and have a plan for certification on file with the Department of Education at LSUS.

Scheduled courses will be determined in cooperation with parishes served by LSUS and enroll between 75 and 90 teachers who are temporary certified. ☺

Dr. John Allen, president of Centenary College, addressed the first graduates. He said all of the efforts leading toward graduation were "worth the price." The reward, he said, "is a citizen who can cope, who can take his place in the society, and who can contribute to that society. Pride in one's country, in one's community, in one's school are necessary ingredients to greatness."

Dr. Allen continued, "Although the world seems less inhumane and less personal" — that people have not changed. "The world has and man must make his adjustments." The answer is not in drugs, alcohol or "in watching

spectator sports on the boob tube." He said he had no answers but offered these suggestions: a meaningful occupation, finding ways to serve one's fellow-man, and establish a stable home life.

"Don't stop learning, don't stop seeking, and you may help us out of the dilemma of what's wrong with today's society," the speaker said. He told the graduates that "as today's graduates and tomorrow's alumni you have unique qualification to help

LSUS. As graduates, you have an obligation to represent and defend the campus in society — not blindly, but intelligently

and critically."

"Educational strength adds immeasurably to the economic potential of the Shreveport-Bossier area. This class — this first graduating class — represents a new dimension in higher education here. You should be very proud," Dr. Allen said.

The original article was published in the *Almagest*, June 20, 1975, Vol. VIII, No. 26. Parts of the original article have been omitted.

Those where the days...

LSUS gives 223 degrees

By Garrett Stearns

The conferring of degrees on 223 students climaxed a decade of efforts to make Louisiana State University in Shreveport a four year degree-granting institution of higher learning.

This historic commencement held May 15 [1975] at the Municipal Auditorium made possible the first graduating class — alumni who can look back in retrospect and see themselves as part of the

beginnings of a new dimension in higher education for this area.

Chancellor Donald E. Shipp, who presided at the ceremonies, expressed appreciation to all who had "worked to make this event a reality." He told graduates, "You have worked hard and you richly deserve the recognition you are about to receive; you are the tradition of LSUS, and with your support as alumni we will enhance this tradition."

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Parkerson wants more positive publicity for LSUS

Heather Jackson
ALMAGEST

Stuart Parkerson was named the director of information services. Parkerson replaces former director Cathey Graham. Graham stepped down from the position in April to pursue a career as marketing director for Columbia Highland Hospital.

The July appointment was announced by Chancellor Vincent Marsala, who expresses his enthusiasm regarding Parkerson joining the LSU-Shreveport staff.

"He brings with him a great deal of experience in media and public relations. He knows what needs to be done and he's taking the initiative to get things done," says Marsala.

Parkerson served as



Stuart Parkerson

executive director of the Ark-La-Tex Vehicle Museum and director of marketing for the American Rose Society in Shreveport. He has also been involved in the advertising industry with the *Times* and Lamar Advertising.

Excited about being at

LSUS, Parkerson says, "an important part of my job is working close with the media to get more positive publicity about the University" and "to increase public awareness about the functions and programs that LSUS has to offer."

As director of information services, Parkerson will organize and direct the campus news bureau, publish several different university publications, and provide consultation for other publications within the university.

The Chancellor's Report, his first major project, has recently been completed. According to Marsala it has been very well received. Another important project in the works for Parkerson is the 30th Anniversary Campaign for LSUS. ☺

Satellite campuses offer an alternative for students

Byron Reeves
ALMAGEST

Do you live a distance from LSUS, can't get that class into your schedule, or perhaps you just don't want the embarrassment of being seen walking into a remedial math class? Alternative classes may be the ticket.

LSUS is offering a myriad of classes at a number of off-campus sites, in addition to those evening and weekend classes held on-campus.

Eight telecourses are being offered this semester which further ease students' woes, requiring that students in these courses merely watch the courses on KLTS-24 in the comfort of their homes, (taping is encouraged) and meet every two weeks on campus. Many of these classes being offered are freshmen level which should help

those who either could not get into a full class or could not squeeze those last-minute classes into an already tight schedule.

In the case of many students, a hectic work schedule prevents an even distribution of classes during the week, and these alternative classes are available at times that co-ordinate with other schedules.

The off-campus courses have been fairly well distributed among seven locations: Coushatta High School, Mansfield High School, Stockwell Elementary School, North Caddo High School, Willis-Knighton Hospital (Greenwood Road and Southpark locations), and at the Veterans' Administration Hospital. Consult the nearest location to you about the many available times and classes scheduled. ☺

LSUS graduate returns to coach a debate team

Brian Allen
ALMAGEST

LSUS's debate team has a new mentor, at least for the time being. Mary "Jorji" Jarzabek, who usually takes care of those duties is spending this semester at the University of Southern Mississippi completing doctorate work. Filling in for her is Trey Gibson, an LSUS graduate and debate standout under Jarzabek.

Gibson was just finishing up his master's degree program at Arkansas State

University when Jarzabek approached him about the position. She new he wanted to coach debate, and he was excited about the opportunity to return here. Gibson had been an assistant coach at Arkansas State and had decided this was the career choice for him.

Gibson will lead a team of ten debaters, five freshmen and



five returning from last year's squad. Among the veterans are Steven Krefft and team captain Jennifer Edwards, who Gibson said he expects great things from. Both posted several wins last year and are looking to keep the momentum going.

The team expects to go to four or five tournaments

throughout Louisiana and Texas, and LSUS will host a tournament in December.

First up is Sam Houston State University on Oct. 2-5. The tournament is traditionally the first one for the team, and one that Gibson has won in the past.

The interim director made it clear that he wants to continue running the program much as Jarzabek would, and hopes to remain on as an assistant when she returns for the spring semester.

"This is something I

want to do for the rest of my life. I love teaching students, and I hope it's long term at LSUS. I look forward to continuing the success I had here, that I had at Arkansas, and that Jorji has created at LSUS. I'd like to thank everyone who has supported me as I temporarily fill the big shoes that Jorji left."

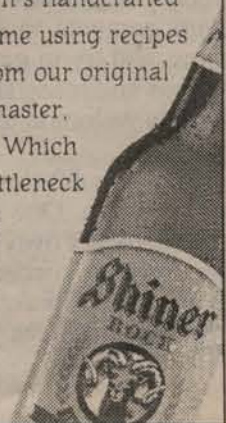
The team invites any interested students to attend practices Mondays at 6 p.m. in Bronson Hall Room 312. For more information, contact Gibson at 797-5228. ☺

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the **ALMAGEST**

to keep the campus informed

(al-ma-gest") n.

Any various great medieval works
as on astronomy or alchemy.

— New Webster's Dictionary

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Small can be better

The semester is still quite new, ink has barely dried on our new books' pages, fresh highlighters in our pockets, and notebooks await to be filled. What a great time to start thinking positively about LSUS.

I'm tired of hearing all the poor souls complaining how they are fallen victims of this institution. "Oh, if I just had the chance, I'd be out of here." "Anywhere, but Shreveport!" Sounds familiar?

Let me tell you one thing, the place doesn't make things any better or worse: the people occupying it make all the difference. Positivity attracts positive things, good intentions breed good results. A person is part of the whole, as well as, the whole depends on a single person.

Times at LSUS have been enjoyable, and a start of a new — last one, I'm sad to say — year is always exiting. Sure, one finds little things to gripe about, but look at the bigger picture, look at the things that make the difference in the quality of education at LSUS. The things that make us special, and those we often take for granted.

First, consider the class sizes. Here, some of the freshmen classes are considered big if they have over 50 students. In comparison, on a bigger campus one is lucky to get a glimpse of the instructor behind someone's shoulder. The mechanical, steely voices echo through loud speakers, and late-arrivers better have their oxygen bottles because their seats are in other spheres. Your instructors are as likely to remember your name as they are to recall their first grade class mates.

Further, when you get to the senior level, courses usually consist of less than 20 people. The instructor is able to give ample time and help you out with your studies. Some of the classes have even fewer students and teaching, therefore, becomes individualistic: the same attention you would get in a graduate school, but for much higher price. At LSUS, students get their moneys' worth.

Another aspect students overlook is the wide variety of student organizations on campus. On bigger campuses students compete to get out and about, fight for the officers' spots, and try to get the most experience in group communications and leadership skills. On our campus, student organizations welcome all new members with all of their innovative ideas.

The possibilities at LSUS are endless. There is no short cuts, though. One has to take the initiative to get involved, and run one's own life. But when surrounded by people who want you to succeed as much as you do — and sometimes even more — make the hard work, the time devoted to studying, and sacrifices you've had to make, worth your while.

Rita Uotila, editor

Baton Rouge death increases awareness of Fraternity drinking

Amy Mercer
ALMAGEST

Mention the word "fraternity" and a lot of people will picture rowdy parties and John Belushi wearing a toga in the film, "Animal House." But the recent death of a Louisiana State University student may change that image from comic to tragic.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon pledge Benjamin Wynne, 20, died August 26 of acute alcohol poisoning after a night of binge drinking. Wynne had a blood alcohol content of 0.588 percent, the result of consuming at least two dozen drinks.

The incident has put the spotlight on alcohol abuse by college students, but university officials have long been aware of the dangers. The Student Development and Counseling Center at LSU-Shreveport has surveyed 660 students on alcohol and drug use. Paula Lewis, director of Student Development and Counseling, said that, according to the survey results, alcohol is the most abused drug on campus.

For years, excessive alcohol use has caused problems on college campuses. A 1993 study found that "the heaviest, most frequent, and most problematic drinking in college is done by fraternity members." The Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University found that students living in fraternities and sororities reported drinking an average of 15 drinks per week, compared to only 5 drinks per week by other students. Lewis said LSU-S students reported drinking an average of 3.3 drinks per week.

In 1994, the private Commission on Substance Abuse at Colleges and Universities reported that campuses were experiencing an epidemic of "binge boozing." The LSU-S survey shows that 31 percent of students have engaged in binge drinking, consuming 5 or more drinks in one sitting. The Commission urged colleges to recognize drinking as a cause of academic failures and most of the violent crime on campus.

LSU-S student Liz FitzGerald, 23, said when she entered college at 18, she drank more than at any other time in her life.

"We went out at least four nights a week," she said. "I drank to get drunk."

FitzGerald explained that

she never felt pressure to drink. It was a new experience and entering college gave her a newfound freedom. But, she said the nights out definitely affected her class attendance.

The counseling center has designed a poster campaign to raise awareness on campus. Lewis says its goal is to change the perception that all college students drink.

"There are a whole lot of people who don't drink," said Lewis. She said that if young people entering college can identify with the people who choose not to drink maybe they will make the same choice.

Wynne's death is under investigation by the Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control.

"This was a terrible tragedy," said Secretary of Revenue John Kennedy. "By all accounts, some good kids who, like most kids, thought they were bullet-proof, did something stupid. They paid dearly. One paid with his life. We can't change that. What we can do is find out if any adults contributed to that mistake. If they did, they will be punished to the full extent of the law."

Universities across the country have taken action against fraternities for incidents involving alcohol abuse. At USC, a fraternity was held responsible for the acute alcohol poisoning of two members, left comatose by the incident. In March of this year, eight Frostburg State University students in Maryland were charged with manslaughter when a freshman died from alcohol poisoning.

In March, two national Greek organizations, Phi Delta Theta and Sigma Nu, announced a ban on alcohol in their chapter houses, effective July 1, 2000. Dr Michael Brendler, faculty advisor for the LSU-S chapter of Phi Delta Theta, said in March that, while fraternities have realized alcohol abuse is a widespread problem, a

major factor in the policy decision was financial pressure. Insurance costs are rising and have doubled in the last few years. The object of alcohol-free chapter houses is to reduce the fraternity's liability.

Brendler said if a fraternity wants to hold a party where alcohol is served, it must hire a vendor and rent a facility. The vendor is then responsible for checking identification and liable for any accidents.

Shawn Lincoln, Phi Delta Theta rush chairman, said the incident at LSU has not affected LSU-S rush activities at all. According to Lori Korman in Student Activities, no alcohol is served during rush activities. There are about twenty students going through fall rush.

Fraternity and sorority bids will be out Friday September 19. Lincoln said there are usually "bid night" parties. The incident at LSU occurred after Wynne and his fraternity brothers celebrated "bid night" at a Baton Rouge bar.

Just days before Wynne's death, LSU was named one of the "top 10 partying universities" in the nation" by the Princeton Review. Lewis said LSU-S has a reputation for academic excellence, not for partying.

"That's what we're here for," she said. Lewis admits that, while LSU-S is below the national average in drinks consumed per week and the percentage of students who binge drink, "we have some work to do here."

LSU-S has a higher percentage of students arrested for DWI and students who admit to driving while under the influence of alcohol. The survey compares LSU-S to other four-year public institutions. Lewis said that because of the recent death of Princess Diana in an automobile accident and the news that her driver was legally drunk, the dangers of drinking and driving are on people's minds. □

LETTERS POLICY

The Almagest requests your reactions through Letters to the Editor. Letters should be typed and double spaced. Please include your class and major field of study.

Letters should be submitted to *The Almagest* office, BH 344, by noon on the Friday preceding the Thursday publication date. Obscene, libelous and anonymous letters will not be printed.

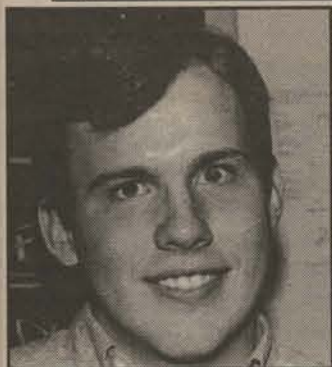
The Almagest reserves the right to edit letters.

Polar Points.

Labelism; what you think is not always what you get

By Mark Anderson

By MaKayla J. Sibley



In America today, the word "conservative" is often misused and misunderstood. Everywhere you turn, the term is being spoken,

often by people who do not have the slightest idea of what it truly means.

The major media and cultural dictators portray conservatives as evil and greedy people whose only goals are to kill senior citizens by way of Medicare cuts and to kill our children by poisoning our drinking water. This warped portrayal has left many Americans with an inaccurate idea of what conservatism actually is.

First, conservatism promotes the idea of smaller government. The proper role of government is to provide for the people only those functions that private individuals or organizations cannot do. Yet, government has grown and taken control over many realms of our society. The result has been mammoth increases in teenage pregnancy statistics, an escalating crime rate, and an influx of other problems that were once unimaginable.

Furthermore, conservatism promotes the ideas of individual thinking and achievement. This seems to be a lost pastime in American culture. The idea that one thinks for himself and achieves success without the aid of the government is viewed as "puritanical." Contrary to the liberal belief that behind every successful person there is a government subsidy, true success in America stems from hard work and determination.

Moreover, conservatism requires each individual to take responsibility for their lives. To some, this is a frightening thought. The very idea that everyone becomes self-sufficient is enough to send the "classic" liberal into a state of sheer shock. For, their power derives from your ignorance and whatever degree of

dependence they can lock you into.

One of the most prevalent topics, when discussing conservative ideology, is economics. Economic conservatism is the realization that prosperity and opportunity are the results of a free market system and not government bureaucracies or state welfare programs. It is also the recognition that economic growth stems from low taxes and fewer government regulations. This creates a more profitable work place, which in turn creates a more profitable job for the worker.

The strength of our nation lies with the individual and this is the paramount idea behind conservatism. Personal sacrifice and perseverance have made our country what it is today and the decline of it could break it. Yet, the



I grew up with liberal being a four-letter word. My father is a self-proclaimed "bubba", my mother's mind still runs

concurrent with circa 1950, and the rest of the family refuses to let go of the fact that George Bush is no longer in the White House.

My brother, the black sheep of the family, was my saving grace. He was a product of the 1970s, believing in white polyester suits, disco music, and President Jimmy Carter. Catching the tail end of the hippie era, he showed me that there was an alternative to the conservative ideologies that I was taught over the dinner table.

If you have not figured it out yet, I am a liberal. I think they still have a "necktie party" around the old oak tree at sundown for admitting that. I wish to qualify

myself at this point. I am not an extremist who burns the American

flag on the courthouse steps, or chains myself to a spotted owl. I merely support your right to do so.

Let's clarify here: there is a difference between leftist and liberal. Leftists are socialists, communists, and Sinead O'Connor. Liberals are Phil Donahue, Bill Clinton, and Ms. magazine. There is a difference between the two; just as conservatives, I'm sure, would not necessarily want to be grouped with "rightists", i.e., the Ku Klux Klan.

So what is a "liberal"? Webster's dictionary defines it as "broad-minded, tolerant, not bound by authoritarianism, orthodoxy, or traditional form."

Political Science professors will tell you liberals believe in 1) capitalism regulated, 2) spending lots of money to deal with poverty, 3) a woman's right to choose, 4) separation of church and state, and 5) protecting our environment. This is only a short list and seems to be very cut and dry. In actuality there are hundreds of issues and most people find themselves to be a little liberal and a little conservative.

The point is that it is not cut and dry, and for the most part, very complicated. For some people, it is the attachment of a label, such as the word "liberal", that can spark fierce debates or much more. The Hatfields' and McCoys' probably began over one of them calling the other the dirty "L" word.

Liberals tend to be more free thinkers, open-minded, and much more willing to accept change in any avenue. Liberals are risk-takers, whereas conservatives like the status quo. Las Vegas might just be the liberal headquarters in that respect. Women in the workplace was a liberal idea of the 1960s. Integration and civil rights were radical liberal ideas of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s heyday. Notice how these ideas benefited women and minorities.

And now for you W.A.S.P. males who feel left out, liberal thinking has supported your right to Playboy magazine and prostitutes in stilettos. I'm pretty sure my brother will find that last point most interesting. Yet on the other hand, I'll bet the Christian Coalition will hunt me down.

Maybe now some of you can see that liberal is not a dirty word, and for you conservatives who still think liberalism is just as filthy as Jane Fonda, I'll be here every week trying to save your souls. So until the times, "they are a-reformin'", keep your women barefoot, your guns cocked, and Rush on the radio.

MaKayla J. Sibley is a student at LSUS. She is a sophomore majoring in political science. Her column will appear weekly. Write her in care of the *Almagest*, BH344, or almagest@pilot.lsus.edu

Mark Anderson is a student at LSUS. He is a sophomore majoring in political science. His column will appear weekly. Write him in care of the *Almagest*, BH344, or almagest@pilot.lsus.edu

Lessons from the Appalachian Trail

By Wes Montgomery

Albert Einstein said, "There are two kinds of people in this world. Those who don't believe in miracles, and those who believe miracles happen every day."

In December 1996, I resigned my commission from the U.S. Marine Corps and decided to endure an arduous physical and mental challenge which would take six months to complete, and would take me through the most rugged mountains and terrain in the eastern United States.

From February 27 to August 13, I thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail which is the longest footpath in the country running from Springer Mountain, Ga., to Mount Katahdin, Maine.

The trail goes through 14 states and covers approximately 2,159 miles. Every year more than 3,000 people attempt to thru-hike the trail, but only 10 percent make it to Katahdin.

A lot of people have asked me what it was like to hike that far and spend an intimate six months with nature. I can honestly say it was the hardest thing I have ever done and prob-

ably never would have made it if it wasn't for the miracles that happened every day, and the essential goodness of the people I met along the trail.

Prior to my thru-hike, I went through life wearing blinders, never seeing or appreciating the beauty of this world had to offer. When all the distractions of our technological world

"I have seen a hundred angles on the trail. However, my angels don't float in the air....They are the ones [people] that help inspire and encourage us through our lives."

were gone, I was completely amazed at the miracles that happened around me every day.

Sometimes I would be at such a high altitude I would be above the clouds looking down on them. In the mountains I saw the most beautiful sunrises and sunsets I'd ever seen. I was completely awe struck when I saw a bear and a moose for the first time.

In Georgia, on a clear early morning I saw Hale Bopp. Once I got caught in

a thunderstorm on a mountain summit. I was completely terrified but couldn't help but sense a divine presence.

When I was hiking in Northern Virginia, I saw fields of a billion trilliums (a flower). It was amazing to just admire the precious stillness and silence in the mountains, or see a snow storm in the middle of May.

Some of the miracles were small like an ice cold spring on a hot summer day, or the sun breaking out of the clouds on a cold day. Maine, for instance, has hundreds of lakes and ponds, so if I ever got hot or tired I could go swimming.

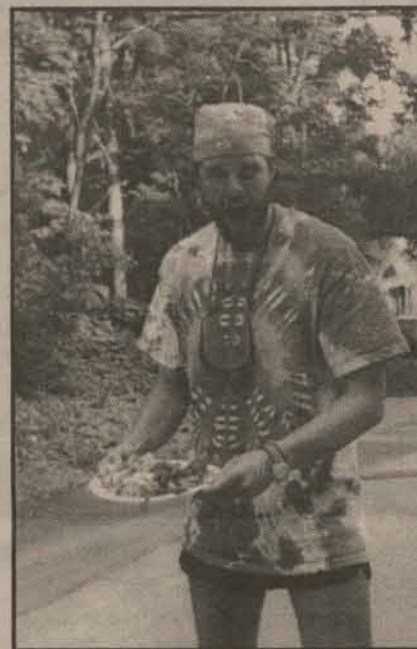
On two summits, I could see the skyline of New York City 150 miles away. Birds would sing to me at dawn, and at night I would watch shooting stars. I saw so many miracles that I found it hard not to have a reverence for the creator.

The trail was rich in miracles, but the goodness of the people really amazed me. I call them angels, not in a mystical form with wings on their backs and halos, but just plain, good people.

Once I got rid of every-



Above: The majestic Mount Katahdin, Maine, the last peak of The Appalachian Trail and a goal to 3,000 hikers who start from Springer Mountain, Ga., and hike through villages and wild life over 2,000 miles. Only 10 percent of the hikers finish their trail to the Holy mountain.



Left: A church group at Delaware Water Gap, Pa., cooked a huge dinner for the hungry thru-hikers. Also many others provided food and shelter along the way.

thing in my pack that was not essential to life; one of those things was my water purifier. In West Virginia I got so sick I thought I would die. Later in the emergency room I found out that I had four parasites, worms, and fungus in my stomach and intestines.

I knew I had fever and hadn't eaten in two days. I was so weak I couldn't lift my pack. At this point I had two major concerns: I had to get to the road, and find a ride to a hospital.

I made it to a road only three miles away, but I was dizzy and faint and just sat down on my pack. Almost immediately a car pulled onto the shoulder. I could see a little old lady driving and her eyes barely came over the steering wheel.

She unrolled her window and said, "Do you need a ride somewhere?" "I need to get to a hospital," I replied. She helped load my pack in the car

and said, "I've never picked up anyone in my life, and if my husband knew he would kill me."

As she drove me to the emergency room, I couldn't help but wonder why she pulled over to help me. You have to understand, I'm 6-foot-2, 195 pounds, was hairy and stunk. I must have smelled because I hadn't showered in two weeks. Not only did she get me to the hospital, but she and her husband came later to make sure I was all right. She was an angel.

Also, a man in Massachusetts took me and my hiking partner into his house on a cold rainy day. He fed us, let us sleep in his house, and then took us around in his car to buy our resupplies of food. What a great and unselfish man he was. How trusting! He never asked us for anything. He was only concerned about us.

Continues on page 10.



Photos by Wes Montgomery

Left: At the end of the six months and 2,159 miles journey, The Appalachian Trail, on the summit of the Native Americans holy mountain, Katahdin. Right: Clean and shaved during the first month of the thru-hike.

Students have changed during LSUS' 30 years

Mary Jimenez
ALMAGEST

During the past 30 years, LSUS students have laid them down to sleep — the three r's.

A number of LSUS professors, who have been at the school for 20 or more years, are saying students demand more from their education than they are willing to work for.

In a questionnaire to 54 professors, all of whom came to LSUS at or before 1979, a response to changing attitudes among students was requested.

Of the 15 that took part 12 gave a variation of the same theme — students are weaker. The other three responses saw the change in ideologies and student make-up.

"Today, many of our students seem to see education as merely a series of hurdles, or an exercise aimed at

simply filling in the blanks on a curriculum sheet," said Professor David Gustavson, of the department of education, who came to LSUS in 1974. "We still have the dedicated students, but they seem to be the exception rather than the rule today."

The most often sighted shift was the lack of preparation entering college. Students are ill-read or do not read at all. Instructors say entering undergraduates' verbal and writing skills have declined over the years.

Professor Paul E. Merkle, of the department of economics and finance has noticed this as well as an inadequate amount of preparation in Algebra, but a larger shift is the arrogant attitude some students have taken.

"Many students seem to

think this lack of preparation is not their fault and that some adjustment should be made here at LSUS to compensate," said Merkle, who came in 1976.

Professor Michael Brendler from the economics department is also astonished by the perspective of the students that their education should be effortless.

"There is an apparent unwillingness, on the part of the student, to do anything about (weaknesses in math and verbal skills); the faculty seem to be expected to demand less," said

Brendler, a 1977 incumbent

to teaching at LSUS.

Another changing factor is time. More students are working full-time, with the demands of work and family competing with their studies. But Brendler says this is not the lofty endeavor it once was.

"Students seem to be working more to be able to buy 'things' as opposed to paying for school. The attitude seems to be: 'I don't have time for this — I have to work.' Again, instructors are expected to demand less."

It could be societies changing values, the "superhighway" demand for speed, gadgets, gadgets everywhere, but for all the different reasons, professors note that classrooms are filled with students who are willing to just scrape by in school in order to guarantee a job that will pay for life's pleasures.

Professor Wilfred

Guerin, director of the MLA program, notes that although it is a generalization, changing times have surely affected our educational system.

"There seems to be a lessened sense of idealism, of dedication to personal responsibility, and awareness of the social impact of one's personal actions," said Guerin, who arrived at LSUS in 1974.

Charlene Handford, department of communications sees less radical views from students — no far right or far left. Also noted was the increase in the racial complexion of LSUS.

Suzanne Bright of communications has seen fewer students, spouses and children from Barksdale Air Force base. She has also noted a decrease in the number of non-traditional students who once took courses just for the sake of learning. ☞



SPORTS

Pierce brings national weightlifting center to LSUS

Brian Allen
ALMAGEST

Almost a year ago at this time the *Almagest* sports page was lamenting the loss of Dr. Kyle Pierce, and it wasn't alone in doing so. Pierce's title was simply weightlifting coach, but his contributions to Shreveport sports made him much more than that.

In addition to bringing world-class weightlifting events to the H.P.E. Building, Pierce also worked with the Byrd Lady Jackets on weight training. He'd point to a hundred other reasons they won a state championship, but his help can hardly be overlooked.

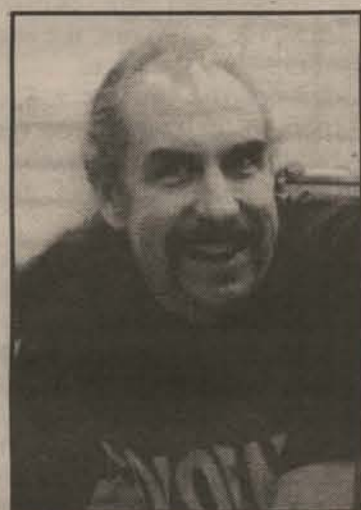
Pierce's most famous job may be one he held for only a short time: As Pegleg Pete, the fun-loving mascot of the now infamous Shreveport Pirates, Pierce got fans excited about games that seldom offered a lot to cheer about.

The Pirates took the money and ran, and LSUS denied Pierce the tenure he had worked so hard for.

Pierce got an offer from the National Strength and Weightlifting Coaches Association in Colorado Springs, Col. and continued to promote the sport of weightlifting as well as the educational opportunities in the coaching field. It was a happy ending for him, but a major blow for Shreveport.

Even thousands of miles away, Pierce still communicated with friends here and never stopped caring about a mid-size Louisiana community. A friend of his in Arkansas spotted an ad from USA Weightlifting (the National Olympic Committee's governing board for the sport). It wanted to set a national weightlifting development center to promote the sport, and to train future Olympians. Pierce told his friends, "Shreveport can get this bid. I know it."

With the help of Glen Evans of SPAR, and Andy Rosenbaum from the Shreveport Sports



Dr. Kyle Pierce

Authority, Pierce prepared a bid to get the center set up in Shreveport. Cities like Savannah, Ga., Pensacola, Fla., were all bidding for the same prize.

With the city's full backing, Shreveport had an answer for every one of the

board's questions. Everything from transportation to recruitment methods had been thought out meticulously. Not only did Shreveport get the bid, but Pierce was later named director in a separate search. The board wanted someone who could go to local schools and get middle-school age kids who have been inundated with dreams of basketball, baseball, and football superstardom to give weightlifting a look. Pierce proved to be that person.

LSUS hosting national and international events showed that the interest was here. Everyone on the board had been to Shreveport at least once.

For now the center will be housed in our H.P.E. Building, in a section of the building formerly used to house dance classes. The development center will not just be about creating great athletes, but will save some space for those who just

want to get into the sport.

Pierce worked with disadvantaged children at the local Carver YMCA and will continue helping kids who aren't seeking gold, just a little self-esteem. The center will also offer H.P.E. faculty members opportunities to research the latest advances in physical training. Pierce will start going to schools next week, and hopes to have a grand opening in early October.

His faith in a town that loses a franchise a year has seen him rewarded with the opportunity of his career:

"I've got my dream job. There's only a few people in the country that get paid to do this. I knew we could get enough people that wanted this. I mean, Shreveport's produced some great athletes."

With Pierce's guidance, that can easily continue. "Pegleg" hasn't smiled this much since that time the Pirates actually won a game. ☞

CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS

Japanese Cultural Society

Meets: 2nd and 4th Tues. of each month.

Activities: demonstrations, discussions.

Contact: Emi Wamsley, 861-7482, BH238, BH240.

Accounting Club

Meets: 3rd Wed. of each month, noon, BE216.

Activities: Speakers, Networking, Scholarships, Volunteer Tax Assistance, Campus Activities

Contact: Accounting dept., college of business.

Louisiana Association of Educators

Meets: 3rd Thurs. of each month

Activities: Student teacher tea, speakers, bookfair, workshops, and service projects.

Contact: Denise Wilson, 742-6423

Math Club

Meets: 2nd and 4th Tues. Of each month, 10:30 a.m., BH 421

Activities: Group activities, Science Olympiad, Viro-Wars Tournament

Contact: Dr. Mabry or Dr. Covington.

History Club

Meets: First Thursday of each month, at 10:30 a.m. in BH 446.

Contact: Dr. Finley or Michael Modica, 747-4736.

Chemistry Club

Meets: 1st Thurs. of each month

Activities: group

Contact: Dr. Gustavson, 797-5091.

MBA Association

Meets: Once a month

Activities: seminars with guest speakers on career planning and resume writing, social activities

Contact: Director of Graduate Studies, College of Business.

Rotorac

Meets: Two meetings per month

Activities: Students service organization, one service project per semester, luncheons.

Contact: Dr. Paul Merkle, 797-5240

Drama Club

Meets: Tues., Thurs., 10:30 a.m., BH330

Activities: Dramatic production, first hand information on auditions in local productions, volunteer work.

Contact: Jorgi Jarzabek, 797-5228.

Sociology/Social Work Club

Meets: BH361

Contact: Ms. Kenna Franklin or David O'Neal, 424-7332.

Biology Club

Meets: twice a month, SC228.

Activities: Social events, career seminars, fundraisers, community and campus service projects.

Contact: Dr. Beverly Burden, 797-5088,

bbrden@pilot.lsus.edu.

Campus Ministry

Meets: 1st and 3rd Tues., 10:30 a.m., UC Pilots Room.

Activities: devotionals, programs, service projects.

Contact: Toni Bishop, 798-8837 Betsy Eaves, 869-5024.

Catholic Student Union

Meets: Twice a month

Activities: Community service, social events, fundraisers.

Contact: Joseph Holubek 868-6104.

Student Government Association

Meets: Every Tues. 1 p.m., DeSoto.

Open to everyone.

Contact: Michael Scales, 221-7441.

Psychology Club

Meets: 1st and 3rd Thurs.

Monthly, 10:30, BE342

Activities: Community service, social events, speakers,

fundraisers. Contact: Brenda Alexander, 933-5734.

Public Relations Student Society of America

Meets: Monthly, Thurs., 10:30 a.m.

Activities: Volunteer work, contact with PRSA, seminars, speakers, workshops.

Contact: Kathy Smith, 798-0049.

Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi

Meets: TBA

Activities: guest speakers on topics of the field related to journalism, socials

Contact: Rita Uotila, 795-3319.

Health and Physical Ed. Club

Meets: Tues, Thurs. 10:30 a.m.

Activities: Almost Anything Goes for LSUS, judge field days for elementary schools.

Contact: Macie Foster, 797-7294.

ACJS/Lambda Alpha Epsilon

Meets: 1st and 3rd Tue

Activities: Various community activities, speakers on law enforcement ops.

Contact: Dr. Bernadette Palombo 797-5343, or Richard Georgia 797-5078.

English Club

Meets: 3rd Thurs. of each month.

Activities: Booksale, guest speakers, social activities.

Contact: Dr. Thomas Dubose, BH 251, or Patty Lenox, 869-3251.

International Club

Meets: 3rd Thurs. of each month, 10:30 a.m., in BH242

(Foreign Language Multimedia Lab)

Activities: Guest speakers, films, travel and foreign exchange information,

International Food Festival, community service.

Contact: Lynn Walford, 797-5256, lwalford@pilot.lsus.edu

"Something Completely Different": A British Comedy Video Club

Meets: Every first Saturday of each month at 6:30-8:30 p.m. in BH101.

For anyone of any age who enjoys British comedy. No membership fee. Sponsored by the Fine Arts Dept.

Contact: David Damico, 798-6968 or ddamico@shreve.net

To make an update to the Student Organization list, contact the *Almagest* office, BH344, tel. 797-5328, fax 797-5132.

Week's Web Watch

By Mary Jimenez

What if, there were drug that kept you alert in class, energized you for the rest of the day, kept the hunger pains away, made your athletic performance soar, and made the stresses of life easier to handle? Wouldn't you use it? There is one, "it's called food," says Dr. Barry Sears in his newest book *Mastering The Zone*.

His concepts, articles, menus, success stories can now be found on the web. If you have wanted to read the book and don't want to pay

the \$25 you can read archived articles by Dr. Sears, who addresses new issues every Monday. You can also send questions, and they are answered by the next day.

If your into the scientific reasoning of why his balanced, proportioned diet of protein, carbs, and fats work, you may want his first book, *The Zone*, which explains the workings of every "ins, -sands, and mics" of your body. But this page does offer a wealth of recipes and easy to read information, as well as direct ordering of some of his promoted products.

New coach takes Pilots' wheel

Brian Allen
ALMAGEST

Call them the chosen ones, the survivors, the last of the LSUS athletes.

After the bid for a \$20 increase in the athletic fee failed, only the baseball team emerged from the ashes.

While they now have all the money and the spotlight, they don't have a conference. With only one athletic team, the Pilots no longer qualify for the Big State Conference. Even though the team won its conference with a 20-26 record and its first ever trip to the regional playoffs, they are back to their nomadic existence as an independent.

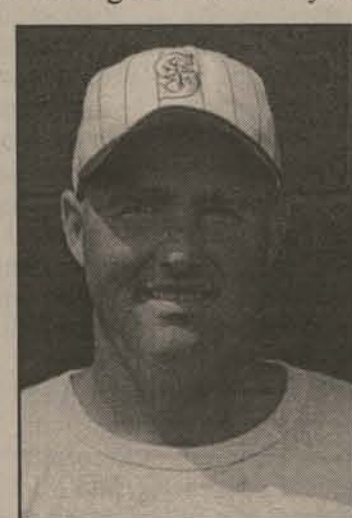
Into all this chaos walks Kit Laird, the new head baseball coach. He comes from Kansas Newman College, another relatively small NAIA program where he was assistant coach. Kansas Newman was in the

NAIA's Top 30 for all five years of Laird's tenure, and led the nation in hitting the

last three years, and four out of the last five. He knows what it takes to get to the top, and said this experience can help LSUS. The Pilots' program is actually bigger than the one in Kansas.

Laird wasn't aware of the lack of local publicity the program suffers from. While looking for a house, he was introduced to the real estate agent as the new Pilot baseball coach. The woman's response was "Oh, y'all are starting baseball now?" Many students on this campus would have a similar reaction. Half of the cam-

pus had never heard anything of LSUS athletics until they were asked to pay



Kit Laird

more to support it. That level of apathy will be one of the main problems surrounding the team.

In an effort to increase the level of competition for the Pilots as well as to arouse local interest, the Pilots have scheduled a Feb. 17 game with the LSU Tigers. (Yes, those LSU Tigers!) The game has already garnered a great deal of attention, and at least made more people aware of the team's existence.

"I feel a strong schedule

See page 11.

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MEET YOUR TEACHER

Mary Jimenez ALMAGEST

- Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences
- Ph.D., Vanderbilt University
- Undergraduate degree from Bates College, Maine
- Family: husband: Dr. Eric Aamodt; three children: 11, 8, and 4.
- Free time activities: Camping, family, weaving
- Favorite meals: Chinese, barbeque, New Mexico (green chilies)

Stephanie Aamodt did not systematically plan her life as a professor. Instead life's challenges



and experiences eventually brought her to LSUS in 1991 as an adjunct teacher to the science department, where she is specifically involved in cell biology. In 1993 Aamodt became a tenure tract professor.

In 1990 Aamodt came to Shreveport with her husband who was offered a job as a professor for the medical school. Prior to Shreveport they lived in Calgary, Alberta. And though it may be hard to beat the beauty of that area, she says Shreveport has some nice characteristics.

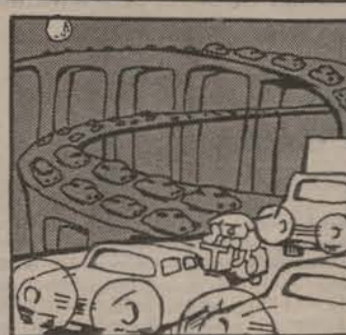
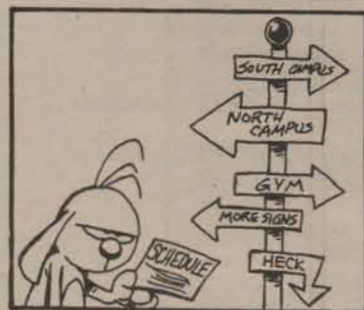
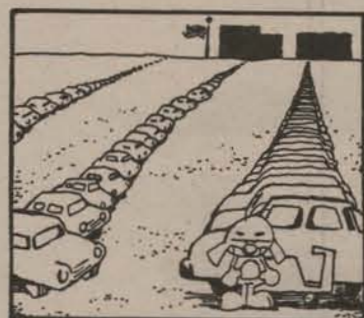
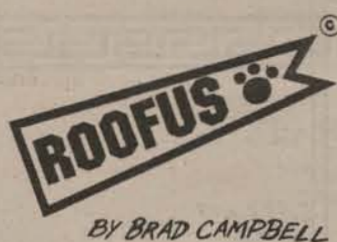
"I enjoy the size of Shreveport," said Aamodt, who had lived in several large metropolies before.

As a professor at LSUS, Aamodt is able to combine her teaching with research, and says they work together well.

"Teaching is something we all do, whether formal-

ly or not, and research is very effective because it is an open horizon that forces a person to navigate," Aamodt said.

Future goals are in the area of science writing. This way Aamodt said, "will allow me to reach a bigger audience." Although a time-line for Aamodt is not clearly marked. With three young children and career, she says you learn to pace yourself. She owns a 8-harness loom that she once enjoyed observing as the treads weaved and joined together — a hobby she will get back to — one day.



Appalachian trail from page 6.

At Delaware Water Gap, Pa., a church group got together and cooked a huge dinner for all the thru-hikers in town. I can't even begin to count the people who picked me up to give me a ride into town for resupplies, and then take me out to the trail again.

The trail was hard and

would make the studliest of men whine, but an angel was next to me every day. My hiking partner, Michelle, weighed only 115 pounds, was 19 years old, and carried a pack twice as heavy as mine. Yet she was so energetic and motivated about thru-hiking and her enthusiasm was contagious to every-

one around her. What a great woman!

I have seen a hundred angels on the trail. However, my angels don't float in the air. They are just people around us every day. They are the ones that help inspire and encourage us through our lives. They are people just like you and me, except

they look for opportunities to do little acts of kindness.

Now I'm at LSUS working on my foundation courses for MBA. Life is not as simple as it was on the trail where everything I needed to survive was on my pack. It's back to fast cars, computers, TV, telephones, news etc.: the distractions of life that have

become so necessary to survive in our civilized society. As I look back on the incredible six months I spent on the Appalachian Trail, I can honestly say it was the greatest experience of my life. My blinders are off and I can still see miracles every day and the goodness in everyone I meet. ☺

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Back to Parking...



Photo by Chris Howell

LSUS 's enrollment is up this fall. The unofficial figures show an increase from 4,019 students last year to 4,267 this year. Undergraduate enrollment is up around five percent, and graduate enrollment is up approximately 14 percent. The total enrollment is up slightly over six percent from last year. The increase in a number of students seems more if it is converted to additional cars on the parking lot.

Baseball continues from page 8.

makes the team even better at the end of the season and it helps with recruiting," Laird said. Forty-five players were at practice last week, among them junior college transfers and players Laird had recruited at Kansas Newman who followed him down.

There is also a petition to get LSUS back into the Big State Conference. Without the Pilots, the conference only has five teams in it. A conference must have at least six teams to be able to send their tournament champion to NAIA Regionals.

So the conference needs LSUS just as badly as it needs them. Laird's first head coaching job will not be an easy one, as the team faces a myriad of difficulties under its most intense scrutiny ever. Make no mistake, Laird is feeling the heat:

"There's a lot of pressure on me and the team because

we're the only sport. We have to prove there is a place for athletics here at LSUS."

Athletic Director Larry Rambin said the department picked Laird from 51 applicants for the position. After 12 telephone interviews, four candidates were invited to the campus. Rambin said the interviews pretty much laid things out: "After the interview, it was not that difficult a decision. We wanted someone with a master's degree and someone who had experience with this kind of program. He's done a tremendous job. We now have more baseball players than we had in the three previous sports combined."

After reading all the hype, you may wish to see the finished product.

The first home game on the fall baseball schedule is Sept. 27 against Louisiana College. The game starts at 11 a.m. ☞

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW INITIATES

Juniors:	Carolyn Butscher	Brandon Martens
	Timothy Chia	Mary Martin
	Teresa Cowgill	Emi Matsumoto-Donato
	Nausheen Imtiaz	Meredith Ours
	Alpa Manchandia	Vicki Pylant
Seniors:	Alice Green	Lisa Nix
	Walton Hinson	Rhonda White
	Patricia Hughes	
Graduate:	Christy Henderson	
Faculty:	Dr. Yong Hwang	Dr. Elizabeth Zippi
	Dr. Lorraine Krajewski	

CHAPTER OFFICERS 1997-1998

President:	Ms. Lynn Walford
President-Elect:	Dr. Larry Anderson
Student Vice-President:	Mr. Parag Patel
Secretary/Treasurer:	Dr. Patricia Stanley
Public Relations Officer:	Dr. William Pederson

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Fellowship Nominee:	Mr. Parag Patel, biochemistry major
Distinguished Alumna:	Mrs. Hazel Beard, former Shreveport mayor

CAMPUS CALENDAR

- Sept. 11 — Time Management @ 10:30 a.m. in U.C. Theater.
- Sept. 11 — Interview Orientation 10:30 a.m. in AD218.
- Sept. 12 — Student Organizations Council, SOC, meeting in Webster Room, University Center.
- Sept. 15 — Last day to drop courses or resign without receiving a grade of "W"
- Sept. 15 — Workshop — Résumé writing @ 12 p.m. in AD213.
- Sept. 16 — Workshop — Interviewing @ 10:30 a.m. in AD213.
- Sept. 16 — Black Studies Association-Colleagues meeting @ 10:30-11:15 in U.C. Webster Rm.
- Sept. 18 — Last day to receive 40 percent refund for dropped courses or resignations.
- Sept. 18 — Managing Your Money @ 10:30 a.m. in U.C. Theater.
- Sept. 19 — Hypnotist, Chuck Milligan @ 7:30 p.m. in U.C. Theater.
- Sept. 25 — Date Rape Prevention @ 10:30 a.m. in U.C. Theater.
- Sept. 26 — Deadline for registering for the Fall semester Proficiency Exam.
- Sept. 28 — What's all this Fuss about Risk Management? Sunday @ 7 p.m. in U.C. Theater.
- Sept. 30 — Volunteer Opportunities @ 10:30 a.m. in U.C. Theater.

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